

with which I am, Sire, my Brother, Your imperial and
royal Majesty's
faithful brother and friend, (Signed)
FRANCIS.

PRKSBUKG, 8/71 *September, 1808.*

This letter appears to be a model of ambiguity, by which it is impossible jXapoleon could have been imposed upon. However, as yet he had no suspicion of the hostility of Austria, which speedily became manifest; his grand object then was the Spanish business, and, as 1 have before observed, one of the secrets of Napoleon's genius was, that he did not apply himself to more than one thing at a time.

At Erfurt Bonaparte attained the principal object he had promised himself by the meeting. Alexander recognized Joseph in his new character of King of Spain and the Indies. It has been said that as the price of this recognition Napoleon consented that Alexander should have Swedish Finland; but, for the truth of this I cannot vouch. However, I remember that when, after the interview at Erfurt, Alexander had given orders to his ambassador to (Jharles IV. to continue his functions under King Joseph, the Swedish *rJittrt/f! <rnjf<thvs* at Hamburg told me that confidential letters received by him from Erfurt led him to fear that the Emperor Alexander had communicated to Napoleon his designs on Finland, ami that Napoleon had given his consent, to the occupation. Be this a.s it may, as soon as the interview was over Napoleon returned to Paris, where he presided with much splendor at. the opening of the Legislative Body, and set out in the month of November for Spain.